CLATSOP COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

History Matters

November/December 2025

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The Oregon Film Museum's Third Annual Selig Award

The Selig Award trophy [l] and the opening sequence of 2025 Selig recipient Carmelo "Melo" Charistil's short *Geneva* [r].

The Oregon Film Museum and Clatsop County Historical Society is excited to announce the third-annual Oregon Film Museum Selig Award. Named for William Selig—who, among his other many cinematic accomplishments, filmed the first known narrative film shot in Oregon: 1909's The Fisherman's Bride, filmed right here in Astoria. This award seeks to honor up-and-coming, young Oregon filmmakers.

In partnership with Outside the Frame (OTF), a Portland-based organization teaching filmmaking skills to homeless and marginalized youth, this year's Selig honors first-time film maker Carmelo "Melo" Charistil for his short film *Geneva*. The Selig was presented to Melo during a ceremony held Novermber 14th at the Liberty Theatre.

View Melo's short film *Geneva* at: https://vimeo.com/1120262866

Flavel House Fence Repaired!

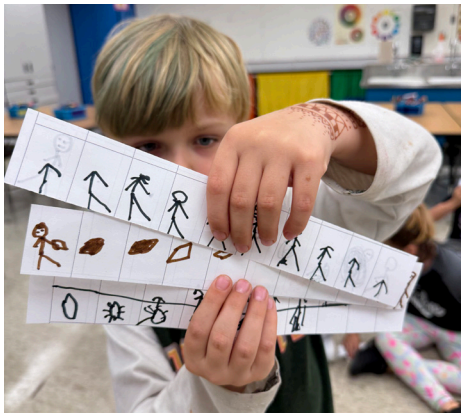
Friends of the Historical Society have expressed concern about the damage that occurred to the Flavel House fence last August leaving it short two panels in the northeast section near 8th and Duane Streets. We are happy to report that the panels have been rebuilt and replaced thanks to the skilled work of CCHS Facilities Manager Matthew Powers with detail work contributed by Wes Humphries.

[l-r] The Flavel House fence after it was damaged, missing two panels, and restored to its original condition.

Curator's Corner

by Dr. Chelsea K. Vaughn, Curator

As Curator, one of my jobs is developing materials used throughout our museums. I love it when members of the community can use our museum materials in new and unexpected ways. Recently, students at Warrenton Grade School did just that. Working under STEAM director Carolyn Peterson, student learned about animation using zoetropes borrowed from the Heritage Museum exhibit Double Vision: The Art and Science of Optical Illusions in Clatsop County, even creating their own animation strips! These strips were placed into one of the loaned zoetropes, which are short cylinders on a platform that spins. As the zoetropes are spinning, the animation strips appear to move, making this a fun and rewarding educational experience for the students.



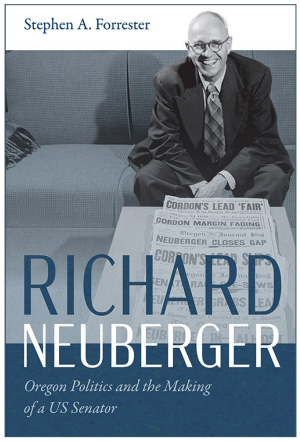
*Students from Warrenton Grade School learn about animation using zoetropes borrowed from the Heritage Museum and a zoetrope on display in **Double Vision: The Art and Science of Optical Illusions in Clatsop County.***

Thursday Night Talks

Join us the third Thursday of each month (October -May) at Ft. George Brewery's Lovell Showroom for our lecture series Thursday Night Talks or TNT.

November's TNT features longtime journalist Stephen Forrester discussing his latest book Richard Neuberger: Oregon Politics and the Making of a US Senator (OSU Press).

Doors open at 6. Talk begins at 7.



Memorials

Sue Bublitz
David Bublitz

Dave & Betty Copper
Bruce Copper

Jon Englund
McAndrew Burns
Allison Cellars
Pete Edison
Dan & Kim Supple

Don Haskel
Jon & MJ Englund
Barbara Henningsen
Blair Henningsgaard
Vern Malen

Wayne Edward Loukkula
Allison Cellars

Blaine & Helen Mack
Larry Johnson

Violet Paulsen
Blair Henningsgaard

Christmastime with the Flavels

It's the holiday season again at the Flavel House Museum! See the house done up in true Victorian fashion, visit with Old Saint Nick, and indulge in a favorite Victorian tradition, Tea & Plum Pudding.

The Flavel House Museum will be decorated with two Victorian-style trees and other holiday sundries throughout the month of December. Regular museum times and admission applies, extra cost for Tea & Plum Pudding.

Saint Nick will be visiting the Flavels, Monday December 16th, 6-8pm, for Old-Fashioned Christmas! Come enjoy holiday crafts and treats and pose for pictures with a true Victorian Santa!

Tea & Plum Pudding will be served 1-4pm weekends throughout December and everyday December 26th through the 30th. Special weekday servings can be arranged for groups of twelve or more. This event costs $14 per person or $10 for CCHS members and includes the regular admission to the Flavel House Museum.

For more information about this event or to arrange a serving for a group of twelve or more, please call 503-325-2203 or e-mail: info@astoriamuseums.org.

Want to see the Flavel House from behind the scenes? Volunteer to work at our Plum Pudding events.

Email volunteer@astoriamuseums.org to sign up today!

Digital Archive News

by Julie Burpee, Digital Archivist

Support the Paul See Digital Scanning Initiative.

When I first came on as Digital Archivist a little over six years ago, we had only digitized a handful of items and were just starting to talk about creating community partnerships. Now we have more than 4,000 items available digitally that include collections from nearly 20 community partners. I am incredibly proud of this work. I am also forever grateful to Tom and Annie Smith, dedicated volunteers who first identified the need to digitize local collections and who have worked tirelessly to ensure we have the resources to make this project a reality. In an effort to grow this important work further, they are introducing a $20,000 matching grant under the Paul See Digital Scanning Initiative. Check out the work we have done making items digitally available to the community and consider supporting these efforts with a donation. The matching grant means that your contribution will have double the impact!

Astoria Column is turing 100!

Help us celebrate next year's centennial of the Astoria Column by contributing your own Column photos to our collection. Either upload your photos using the QR code or bring them by the Heritage Museum (1618 Exchange Street), and we can scan them for you. So far, we have gathered nearly 200 historic and contemporary photos. Thank you to everyone who has already shared their photos!

For more information call 503-338-4849 or email curator@astoriamuseums.org

Upload your own photos of the Astoria Column!

CLATSOP COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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Astoria, OR 97103-0088

Upcoming Events

November 20: *TNT,* Fort George Brewery Lovell Showroom, 1483 Duane Street, doors open at 6.

December 6-7, 13-14, 20-21, and 26-30: Tea and Plum Pudding at the Flavel House, 1-4pm, $14 per person/$10 for CCHS Members, includes regular admission to the Flavel House.

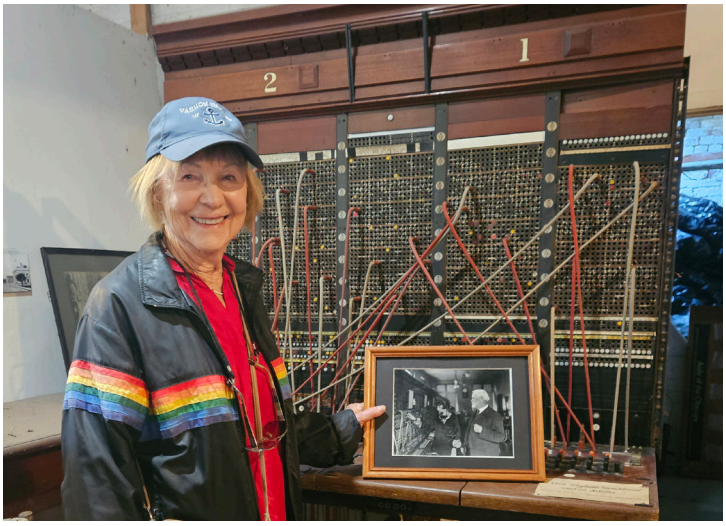
December 15: Old-fashioned Christmas, Flavel House, 6-8pm, $5 per person/free for CCHS Members.

December 18: *TNT*, Fort George Brewery Lovell Showroom, 1483 Duane Street, doors open at 6.

Ongoing Events

Sundays, 8:30-9pm: Mac Burns and Alana Kujala host *An Adventure in History* on KMUN.

Now through February 2026: *Double Vision: The Art and Science of Optical Illusions in Clatsop County* and *"Quiet on Set!" Behind the Scenes with the Goonies* exhibits at the Heritage Museum, 1618 Exchange Street.



Eva Ullfers poses with a photo of her mom Esther

Eva, along with her daughter Debra, recently made a special visit to view the historic telephone switchboard currently housed within CCHS collections. Her mother, Esther Ullfers, worked as the night chief operator, and kept the phonelines working throughout the devastating fire that destroyed downtown Astoria in December 1922. Eva would join her mom working as a telephone operator following her 1956 graduation from Astoria High School.